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of illustration and others less typical dropped. The mass of detail taken up and faithfully recorded sometimes threatens to exhaust the reader's patience. Also in regard to the style it might be said that the sentences are sometimes intolerably long and badly linked, the "wheres" and "whiches" being uncommonly numerous and making the reading heavy. German thoroughness is unfortunately not always combined with English conciseness of expression.

In justice to Miss Eckenstein it must be said that she has established her scholarship, has done an enormous amount of work, and collected valuable information. The use of the book in our libraries, which are not too well supplied with English treatises upon the life and history of the Middle Ages, cannot be too heartily recommended.

M. WERGELAND.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

UEBER DIE "LEGES EDWARDI CONFESSORIS." Von F. LIEBERMANN. Halle a. S.: Max Niemeyer, 1896. Pp. 139. M 3.

THIS volume is one of several special studies by Professor Liebermann in English history in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. In the same general style are *Quadripartitus, ein englisches Rechtsbuch von 1114* (1892); *Conciliatio Cnuti* (1893); *Ueber die Leges Anglorum* (1894); *Ueber Pseudo-Cnuts Constitutiones de Foresta* (1894).

Under thirteen heads the author learnedly discusses the *Leges Edwardi Confessoris*. He shows that this was not the original title, and that of the two early forms of the text the earlier and shorter is the more trustworthy. From internal evidence he forms a conjectural opinion of the time and place and occupation of the author, who seems to have done his work between 1136 and 1154, to have lived in the neighborhood of Coventry, and to have been some sort of church official. In a literary way the *Leges* is of slight importance, but philologically it is of the greatest value. By the phraseology employed floods of light are thrown on the language, history, constitution, and laws of England in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Out of the *Leges* much valuable information can be gleaned concerning the external and internal condition of England in that day. The possessions, officials, immunities, and privileges of the church can here be studied. The place and power of the king in the governmental scheme, and the orders and grades in the English state and society are here set forth. In the *Leges* we learn how England was divided

in population and in territory for purposes of civil order, what courts were instituted for the maintaining of justice between man and man, what crimes were most frequent and flagrant, and what punishments were meted out for these offenses.

The *Leges Edwardi Confessoris* is a valuable source of original information concerning the England of the twelfth century. In a literary, philological, and historical way it is of great value. From it, at first hand, we gain trustworthy knowledge respecting the church, the king, the nobility, the territorial and political subdivisions, the judicial processes, the laws, crimes, and punishments. These points Professor Liebermann with great clearness and a wealth of learning brings out and emphasizes in the dissertation before us.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

ERI B. HULBERT.

A HISTORY OF AURICULAR CONFESSION AND INDULGENCES IN THE
LATIN CHURCH. Vols. I, II, III. By HENRY CHARLES LEA.
Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1896.

It is with justifiable pride in American historical scholarship that we welcome another contribution from the pen of Mr. Lea. Those who have read his previous works on *Studies in Church History*, *Superstition and Force*, *The History of the Inquisition*, *The History of Sacerdotal Celibacy*, will find their highest anticipations realized in *History of Confession and Indulgences*.

It will be seen that all Mr. Lea's subjects are closely related, and that naturally his thorough treatment of each one has thrown light on all the rest. We have then here a group of studies as exhaustive and as masterly as they could well be. Our author has not merely been fortunate in his grouping, but in other respects he was peculiarly qualified for his great undertaking. To begin with he had the natural endowments for an historian. Among these are a great capacity for acquiring and sifting facts, large sympathy with the weaknesses and even the follies of humanity, the generalizing power that is able to bring order out of widely diverse and numerous masses of facts, the judicial calm that arises above passion or partisanship, the love of truth that rests only in perfect justice. When such a mind is turned upon complex and conflicting historical situations we expect thoroughness, orderly arrangement, and illumination. So it seems to us that in the work before us we have a treatment of confession and indulgences that will render further investigation of this particular kind unnecessary for years.